

THE BEAUFORT NEWS

THE HOME PAPER

READING TO THE MIND IS WHAT EXERCISE IS TO THE BODY

EVERY THURSDAY

VOLUME X.

BEAUFORT, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1921

NUMBER 11

BIGGEST COURT IN YEARS NOW BEING HELD

Nearly One Hundred Cases For Infractions Against Fishing Laws

ONE MURDER CASE TRIED

What is said to be the largest criminal court that has ever been held in Carteret county is under way here this week. Most of the cases though are of one nature, the defendants in them being charged with infractions of the fish laws. Seventy four men were indicted for having dredged for scallops in forbidden waters and sixteen were charged with catching food fish with a purse sein. There were several assault cases, liquor selling and the like and one murder case.

Judge Lloyd Horton is holding the court, having exchanged places with Judge W. A. Devin who was to have held it. Judge Horton who is said to be the youngest Judge on the bench and who was formerly solicitor, is handling the judicial reins with dexterity and firmness and has made a very favorable impression upon the public.

In his charge to the grand jury Monday morning Judge Horton expressed his pleasure at having this opportunity of being here at this time. He defined the duties of the grand jury and mentioned a number of criminal offenses which might come before the jury for consideration. In the matter of gambling he said that he could not see that a negro crap shooter was as much to blame as those who speculated in cotton and stocks. He charged the jury to indict any man that they knew to be speculating in such things. Judge Horton referred in rather scathing terms to the manner in which some of the fair sex array themselves nowadays. He said that it might be well for the State to have a committee appointed to censor women's dress as he thought it was needed more than censorship of the moving pictures. The Judge spoke very strongly in favor of popular education as the best thing to raise the standard of morals and living. R. H. Dowdy, of Morehead City, was made foreman of the Grand Jury and B. W. Arthur, of Beaufort, was sworn in as special deputy for the jury.

Most of the cases against the fishermen were disposed of Monday and Tuesday. A few were tried Wednesday.

A big crowd packed the court room yesterday to hear the trial of Jas. Neesmith charged with Louis Carter on Christmas day. Neesmith was arraigned shortly after court opened, but the trial did not begin till about 11:30 on account of some witnesses not being present. Chas. L. Abernethy and C. R. Wheatly appeared for the defendant and Solicitor Davis was assisted in the prosecution by Attorneys A. D. Ward and W. W. Ward, of New Bern. About an hour and half was consumed in getting a jury and then the taking of testimony began. The first witness offered by the State was C. K. Howe who testified as to a map of the scene of the shooting which he had made. The defense objected to Mr. Howe's testimony but was overruled by the Judge. Dr. Richard Duffy, of New Bern, was then introduced and testified to the fact that Louis Carter died from a gun shot wound that entered his abdomen and went through his right kidney. Court adjourned for dinner and after it re-opened Goldie McAulay or Goldie Carter was put on by the State and testified that Neesmith was the aggressor in the fight. One or two other colored witnesses were put on who testified about the same way.

The principal witnesses for the defense were Jas. Neesmith, W. L. Perry, Jno. Hunnings, Billie Neesmith and G. L. Cotton. Perry Hunnings and Billie Neesmith and the defendant all testified that the two negroes attacked Neesmith with a piece of scantling and that he shot in self defense. Mr. Cotton testified mainly as to Neesmith's character, which he said was good. The witnesses in the case finished at about five thirty and argument of counsel was then commenced. Wm. W. Ward led off for

ELECTRICIANS MUST HAVE LICENSE TO DO WORK HERE

The Board of Commissioners of Beaufort met last Friday evening in the City Hall and passed an ordinance requiring all persons who do electric wiring to pay a license fee of \$5 per year. Any one who violates this ordinance is subject to a fine of fifty dollars. All electric wiring must be inspected by Electric Light Superintendent C. R. Manson and if it does not come up to the standard will have to be done over or no current will be furnished. This action was taken as the result of a visit here by A. E. Cannaday, from the State Insurance Department at Raleigh.

The law against erecting wooden buildings or making repairs or additions of wood is also to be strictly enforced. The Board desires to make considerable improvements to the electric light plant and is trying to get the necessary funds with which to do the work. A meeting is to be held at eight o'clock tonight to take action on this matter.

CLERK AND REGISTER OF DEEDS PUT ON SALARY BASIS

A bill was put through the General Assembly in its closing days which puts the office of Clerk of the Superior Court and Register of Deeds on a salary basis. The law which allows these officials salaries of \$2,000 a year went into effect the first of March. The News learns that under the fee system the office of Register of Deeds made about \$2,000 a year, and so pays practically the same as before. The office of Superior Court Clerk it appears has been paying under the fee system only about \$1,200 a year and so the new arrangement represents a considerable increase. The Sheriff's office remains on the fee or commission basis.

FIDDLERS' CONVENTION IS COMING TOMORROW EVENING

Beaufort is to have a very unique and probably enjoyable entertainment tomorrow night when the old time fiddlers' contest takes place at the Graded School auditorium. These fiddlers' contests have been held off and on for a number of years in various parts of the country and as they afford innocent and enjoyable entertainment they are usually very successful. Contests of this sort have taken place recently in Kinston, Greenville, Ayden and other points and the reports are that they were witnessed by large crowds. The event tomorrow evening is under the auspices of the Parent Teacher Association which shares in the proceeds. Besides the old timers some of the younger musicians will be heard from and several prizes will be given to banjo and guitar pickers and violinists.

JEWISH HOLIDAY OBSERVED

Tuesday of this week was a day of festival among Jewish people every where. It began Monday at sundown and lasted until Tuesday at the same hour. The day is known as Purim and is celebrated in memory of Esther's overcoming the machinations of Haman who wished to persecute the Jews. Purim is observed by making gifts, visiting, feasting, dancing and making merry generally. A ball was given in New Bern Monday in honor of the day.

SOFT CRABS HERE AGAIN

The approach of Summer is set forth by the fact that soft shell crabs are now in the market. While the crabs are not very large nor yet very plentiful still they are here in sufficient force to make the mouth of the epicure water. One firm shipped about 100 dozen away yesterday.

The State setting forth the prosecution's side in a forceful manner and asking for a verdict of murder in the second degree. He was followed by C. R. Wheatly who made a strong plea for the defense saying that it was a clear case of self defense. This morning the argument was continued by A. D. Ward, C. L. Abernethy and Solicitor Davis, after which Judge Horton charged the jury.

As the News closed its forms before the jury's verdict was announced it will have to give the verdict next week with a complete summary of the court's findings.

MANY NEW LAWS PUT INTO FORCE

Road and Stock Law Most Important—Change Made in Divorce Law

The General Assembly of North Carolina which adjourned about ten days ago is said to have enacted nearly 1,000 laws. While the majority of them were laws affecting towns and counties and of a local nature, there were quite a number in which the people of the whole State were interested. As the readers of the News are doubtless concerned as to what took place in the way of legislation a list of the more important measures is given herewith for their information.

1. Passage of \$50,000,000 bond issue for the construction of a system of hard-surfaced roads.
2. Provision for permanent improvements at state institutions amounting to \$6,745,000.
3. Appropriation of \$5,000,000 as a borrowing fund for schools all over the state.
4. Gave \$1,000,000 for pensions to Confederate soldiers, an increase of \$350,000.
5. Passed income tax machinery law by which \$7,000,000 may be collected in lieu of a property tax.
6. Passed judicial retirement and emergency judge bill, which relieves judges above 70 years, provided they have served 15 years.
7. Put Eastern North Carolina under stock law.
8. Enacted Bellamy marriage law requiring medical examination.
9. Provided machinery for the revaluation of property assessed under the revaluation act.
10. Created the office of commissioner of revenue in the state taxing system.
11. Increased total appropriations by \$2,500,000 over last session.
12. Amended the medicinal practice act and brought it up to date.
13. Passed the par clearance act.
14. Gave \$400,000 to negro schools and added \$105,000 for maintenance.
15. Provided for negro reformatory and gave \$25,000 to it.
- 15½. Revised the banking laws of the state.
16. Made ample provision for all the known insane of the state and provided treatment for inebriates.
17. Appointed commission to inquire into the feasibility of selling the North Carolina railroad stock and investing it in other railroads to be built in the state.
18. Redistricted the senatorial divisions of the state.
19. Passed an audit act in connection with the school law which will give the state its first opportunity to take a look at the books of the several counties.
20. Passed an audit law which makes the state auditor an acquaintance of county methods in accounting with the state.
21. Enacted the Clement divorce bill which makes five years' separation a ground for absolute divorce.
22. Provided special penalties for moving picture show men who present indecent pictures.
23. Strengthened the municipal finance act and gave relief to cities now cramped by its provisions.
24. Restored the old directorate plan of controlling state institutions and repealed the state architect and state building commission law.
26. Provided \$1,800 pension for Mrs. Thomas J. Jarvis.

Some Defeated Measures.

The assembly refused to pass the Long bill forcing electrical companies to carry out contracts privately made.

It defeated the moving picture censorship bill and refused to put the state wide tick law on the books.

It would enact nothing in the name of prohibition except local legislation and very little of that.

It would make no revision of the election laws asked by the women and did not touch the age of consent. The legislation in the direct interest of women was very limited.

It would not let Tam Bowie legislate one Republican office holder from the county of Ashe, then turned round and put six Republicans out of office by the Neal redistricting bill.

It made divorce doubly easy under the five year abandonment clause. It made marriage exceedingly difficult under the Bellamy medical bill.

EXPLOSION INJURES SEVERAL PERSONS

An explosion that took place last Saturday afternoon in the oyster canning factory at Sea Level came near ending the lives of several persons and did injure them right severely. The explosion was caused by some defect in what is known as the process kettle which burst, went through the roof of the building and tore out one end of the building. Those who were hurt were Mrs. Mollie Salter, J. E. Salter, Elvin Salter and Reddin Harris. They were scalded by the steam and hit by pieces of the kettle. The force of the explosion was terrific and it was considered remarkable that no one was killed. The factory belongs to the Taylor Canning Company.

DAVID LIDDON IS DEAD

One of Beaufort's oldest and most respected citizens passed away when David Liddon died Tuesday morning at about half past four o'clock.

Mr. Liddon had gone to an outhouse in the yard and when he failed to return after some time search was made for him and he was found dead. It is supposed that he died from heart failure. Mr. Liddon was not a native of Beaufort having come here some fifteen years ago from Washington, N. C. He made his home with Captain J. T. Beveridge who married Mr. Liddon's daughter. Mr. Liddon was eighty years of age and for his years seemed to be right strong. He was a boat builder by trade and until about two years ago was usually engaged in that work. During the war he had charge of building some large barges for the late W. B. Blades. Mr. Liddon's nearest surviving relatives are several nieces and nephews. He was a Confederate veteran and a member of the Methodist church here. His body was taken to Washington Wednesday morning for interment in that city.

INCOME TAX DEPUTY SHORT IN HIS ACCOUNTS

RALEIGH, March 14.—At the request of Collector J. W. Bailey, the United States Department of Justice has started a nationwide search for Jesse E. Woolard, field income tax deputy, who is wanted by the Federal authorities on a charge of embezzling government funds following his disappearance several days ago. Woolard's home is in New Bern.

The field deputy was checked up short in his accounts, stated Collector Bailey, after he disappeared from his home and office. A preliminary investigation disclosed that Woolard is short in the neighborhood of \$500, but supplemental reports may increase the total of the alleged misappropriation. The first intimation that Woolard's accounts were irregular came to the internal revenue office at Raleigh in the form of complaints from income tax payers. The investigation that followed was a result of the department's failure to get in touch with the field deputy.

Woolard's territory was Beaufort and Hyde counties in the eastern part of North Carolina. He had been in the employ of the internal revenue department for some time.

The missing deputy was under \$5,000 bond and Collector Bailey stated Saturday that he is hopeful the entire amount of funds involved in the charges will not go higher than the value of the bond. The department, however, will continue to check the accounts in order to get a definite figure.

YACHTS GO NORTH

Yachtsmen who have been spending the winter in Florida waters are now turning their bows northward. Several have been in port recently. The well known Thelma the property of Richard Howe a New York multimillionaire was in the harbor yesterday. This vessel is one of the finest that comes this way and never fails to attract considerable attention.

NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Fort Macon Chapter of U. D. C. will be held at the home of Mrs. M. Leslie Davis at 3:30 P. M. Friday March 18th.

All members are requested to be present.

Mrs. G. D. Potter

LARGEST TOBACCO CROP LAST YEAR

The Biggest Crop in History Of the State—Averaged 21.51 Per Pound

RALEIGH, N. C.—With a total of 395,000,000 pounds of the farmers' sales of tobacco reported to March 1, and enough in evidence to make 426,000,000 pounds as having been produced in North Carolina last year, averaging 21.1-2 cents per pound, the Tar Heel state does the impossible. Last April, a prospectus of the intended acreage was published to forewarn the farmers; also a forecast of 415,000,000 pounds was estimated. Kentucky said, "impossible", but the evidence is now available.

The February tobacco sales in North Carolina show a total of 67,491,570 pounds reported of which 59,216,289 pounds were producers' sales. The average price was \$18.60 as compared with \$31.45 a year ago. The leading markets were respectively Winston-Salem 11,097,621 at \$19.75; Wilson 10,193,469 at \$19.48; Greenville 5,985,749 at \$18.15; and Rocky Mount 695,896 at \$18.50. There were thirteen times as much sold as in February a year ago.

An unusual feature is that the February sales were the third largest of the season; October being first with 84,587,499 pounds, averaging \$24.20, and November 79,805,468 at \$24.71. The slump in December and January prices evidently affected the marketings. Over ten million pounds more may easily be expected this season. This will give the state a record production of over 420,000,000 pounds at an average selling value of \$21.50, giving the crop an actual value of over \$90,000,000.

North Carolina has grown tobacco as follows: In 1915 it grew 198,400,000 pounds, averaging 11 cents; 1916, 176,000,000 at 20; 1917, 244,000,000 at \$1; 1918, 310,000,000 at 35; 1919, 325,248,000 at 51; 1920, 420,000,000 at \$21.51.

The increase of the last crop was about 14 per cent in acreage, 30 per cent in production and a decrease of 37 per cent in average price per pound as compared with the previous crop. This gives North Carolina first rank in its tobacco total value of the United States or any country of the world.

FIRE PREVENTION

Mrs. J. G. Fearing, of Elizabeth City, representing the State Insurance Department can here last week for the purpose of arousing interest in the matter of fire prevention. Her work is mainly with the public schools but organizations like the chamber of commerce and women's clubs are also asked to take an interest in this important matter. The work among the school children is to teach them the danger of carelessness with fire and matches to both life and property. A program of appropriate exercises for fire prevention day has been arranged by the Fire Department for the public schools and they are urged to fulfill it.

CHAUTAUQUA COMING IN MAY

Word has been received here that the Chautauqua which was booked for Beaufort some weeks ago will be here in May. It will run from the 15th to the 19th inclusive.

REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE

The Republican State Executive Committee has been called to meet in Greensboro next Thursday at noon. The call does not state the object of the meeting but it is understood that among other things the matter of Federal appointments will be considered. Chairman F. A. Linney who is a candidate for District attorney in the western part of the State and practically without opposition will probably resign as State Chairman. It is probable that the committee will make recommendations as to district attorneys for the eastern and western districts, also for the marshalls, collector of internal revenue and a few other offices.

Club, Church, fraternal order, church society and such notices must be in this office not later than Tuesday at six o'clock to get in the current issue of this paper.

CITY BOARD TO DRAW SALARIES

After May First Commissioners Will Get Pay For Services

Perhaps it will be easier than it used to be to get men, or maybe women, to serve on the board of commissioners in Beaufort now that they will be paid for their services. According to a law passed by the recent General Assembly commissioners of the town of Beaufort will receive five dollars a day for attending regular meetings and they may be fined \$50 if they do not attend them. This bill which was gotten up rather quietly by some citizens here was put through by Representative D. M. Jones and is now a law. It goes into effect the first Tuesday in May. The law reads as follows:

A Bill to be entitled An Act to Amend Chapter 435 of the Private Laws of 1913; Entitled "An Act to Revise, Amend and Consolidate the Charter of the Town of Beaufort, Carteret County."

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

SECTION 1. That chapter four hundred and thirty-five, Private Laws of one thousand nine hundred and thirteen, be, and the same is hereby amended by striking out all of section twenty-six and substituting for said section the following:

"SEC. 26. That the commissioners shall form one body, and a majority of them shall constitute a quorum and be competent to perform all the duties prescribed for the commissioners, unless otherwise provided. Within five days after their election they shall convene for the transaction of business and organize and shall meet on the first Monday in every calendar month and shall continue their meeting from the hour of ten o'clock A. M. until four o'clock P. M., and they shall be allowed the sum of five dollars per day for their said services. Special meetings of the board may be held on the call of a majority of the members or the call of the mayor, but the said commissioners shall not receive any pay for their attendance on call meetings. All members shall have one days notice of all called or special meetings, but the board may at any regular meeting adjourn the meeting to any subsequent time, at which said time it may transact any business that could be transacted at the regular meeting. And any member of the said board or members thereof who fail to attend said regular meetings, without just cause or excuse, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and fined not more than fifty dollars or imprisoned not longer than thirty days."

SEC. 2. That all laws and clauses of law in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

SEC. 3. That this act shall be in force from and after the first Tuesday in May, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-one.

ERROR CORRECTED

Last week in announcing the candidacy of Mr. C. T. Chadwick for Mayor the News unintentionally committed an error. This was instating that Mr. Bushall defeated Mr. Chadwick for Mayor two years ago. Mr. Chadwick did not run that time, Mr. S. P. Hancock having been the man who ran against Mr. Bushall. In 1917 Mr. Chadwick was a candidate for Mayor in a three cornered race, the other candidates having been Dr. C. S. Maxwell and Mr. Seth Gibbs. Mr. Chadwick won out in this race and was re-elected the following year having defeated Mr. Bushall. The term of the Mayor used to be one year but this was changed in 1917 to a two years term.

A gasoline-driven street car almost like an automobile was tried out recently in St. Louis.

NEW ATTORNEY SWORN IN

Mr. David Willis, of Sea Level, was admitted to the bar here on Monday. He was presented to the court by Mr. M. Leslie Davis. Judge Horton administered the usual oath and then in a few words referred to the dignity and importance of the calling which the young man had taken up as his life work.